

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 061253Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5929
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4624

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH UR US
SUBJECT: PRC REACTION TO SALT IMPASSE

SUMMARY: PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING SAYS THAT THE SOVIETS
WILL NEVER AGREE TO ARMAMENTS CUTS BUT, ON THE CONTRARY,
WILL SIMPLY SEEK TIME TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN WEAPONS
POSTURE. THE EFFECT OF THEIR REJECTION OF THE TWO
SALT PROPOSALS, SAID WANG, IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE HYPO-
CRACY OF MOSCOW'S ALLEGED INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT. END
SUMMARY.

1. PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING TOLD EMBOFF AND OTHER DIPLOMATS
ON APRIL 4 THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIETS
HAD REJECTED THE U.S. "DEEP CUTS" SALT PROPOSAL,
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SINCE "THEY WILL NEVER AGREE TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS."
WANG SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT FOR THE
SOVIETS TO AGREE TO CEILINGS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN
REACHED, AS WITH VLADIVOSTOK, SINCE THIS ENABLED
THEM TO CONTINUE BUILDING UP BOTH QUANTITATIVELY
AND QUALITATIVELY. BUT ACTUAL REDUCTIONS WERE
ANOTHER THING, HE REITERATED.

2. TURNING TO CRUISE MISSILES AND THE "FALLBACK PACKAGE" ON SALT, WANG SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE SOVIET REJECTION WAS AN EFFORT TO GAIN TIME TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CRUISE MISSILES. GIVEN THE OVERWHELMING PRIORITY THEY ATTACH TO MILITARY MATTERS, THEY COULD DO SO IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD, HE SAID, AS THEY HAD DONE WITH MIRVS.

3. THE REJECTION OF BOTH SALT PACKAGES SHOWED THE LIE OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA ABOUT DISARMAMENT, WANG CONTINUED. THEY MADE THEIR FIRST MAJOR DISARMAMENT STATEMENT IN 1924, AND EVERYTHING SINCE THEN HAS BEEN MORE OF THE SAME. MEANWHILE THEIR ARMS BUILD-UP HAS GONE ON AND ON. TO A QUESTION ON WHY THE SOVIETS NEED SUCH AN ARSENAL, WANG SAID THAT THE U.S. REMAINS MOSCOW'S PRIMARY FOE, BUT THE SOVIETS KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT STRIKE THE U.S. DIRECTLY. SO THEY ARM THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO THREATEN WESTERN EUROPE. WANG CONTINUED THAT THE SOVIETS ALSO THREATEN CHINA AND JAPAN, BUT THAT THESE ARE LOWER PRIORITIES. TACTICALLY, THE SOVIETS HOPE TO DIVIDE WESTERN EUROPE FROM THE U.S., WANG SAID, AND IN THEIR REACTION TO THE VANCE VISIT MAY SEEK TO BALANCE THEIR HARSHNESS TOWARD WASHINGTON WITH SOME SOOTHING SOUNDS TOWARD WESTERN EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: WANG'S COMMENTS ARE HARDLY SURPRISING
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FROM A PRC OFFICIAL, BUT THE CONFIDENCE--
EVEN RELISH--WITH WHICH HE ASSESSED SOVIET MOTIVES WAS
CLEARLY INTENDED FOR MORE EARS THAN THOSE PRESENT.
WANG MADE NO CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE U.S. AT ALL,
NEITHER IN THE SALT CONTEXT NOR IN THE GENERAL
FRAMEWORK OF THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD DEALING WITH
THE USSR. HE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT THE SEC-
RETARY'S VISIT HAD NOT PRODUCED A BREAKTHROUGH.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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